

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

A. Summary of the Amendment

Reexamination and reconsideration are courteously requested. By way of this paper, claims 31 and 41 have been cancelled to place this application in condition for allowance. Thus, claims 1 to 6, 10, 12 to 13, 16, 30, 34 to 40, and 43 remain pending, with claims 1, 10, 16, and 30 being independent claims.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6, 10, 12, 13, 16, 30, 34-36, 38-40, and 43 are indicated as being allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for a thorough consideration of these claims.

C. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent claim 31 is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,444,259 (Subramanian) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,232,789 (Platz). Independent claim 41 is rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,475,642 (Zhao) in view of Subramanian and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,264,039 (Chyi). Claims 31 and 41 have been cancelled. Thus, the rejections are now moot.

D. Conclusion

In view of Applicant's amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Examiner's objections and rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further

discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys at the below-listed telephone number. If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment on this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fee which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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